(b) and (c) In 2007-08, Ministry of Tourism had sanctioned financial assistance for setting up State Institute of Hotel Management & Catering Technology in district Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh.

(d) Does not arise.

Closure/revival of Public Sector Enterprises

*412. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Public Sector Enterprises existing and closed when the U.P.A. Government took over;

(b) how many new Public Sector Enterprises came into being during the tenure of the U.P.A. Government and how many sick units revived and restored;

(c) how many have been closed during the tenure of the U.P.A. Government as on 28 February, 2008;

(d) whether the progress of revival and rehabilitation is very slow;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the extra effective measures taken for revival of the closed industries?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As per Public Enterprises Survey 2003-04, there were 242 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) as on 31.3.2004 *i.e.* prior to the period when the U.P.A. Government took over. This includes 11 CPSEs in respect of which decision was taken for their closure. In addition to these 11 CPSEs, there were 16 CPSEs, which were closed during the period 1999-2000 to 2003-04.

(b) to (f) Since the U.P.A. Government took over, 30 new CPSEs were incorporated during the period between 2004-05 to 2006-07. The Government constituted the Board for Reconstruction of the Public Enterprises (BRPSE) in December, 2004 for revival/restructuring of sick and loss making CPSEs. Out of 61 cases received in Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) for reference to BRPSE by the different Ministries, recommendations have been made in respect of 51 sick/loss making CPSEs. Based on the recommendations of BRPSE, Government has approved revival proposals for 28 CPSEs and closure of 2 CPSEs. In additio.. to the above, revival proposals in respect of Nagaland Pulp & Paper Ltd. and ITI have been approved. Government have also accorded "in principal" approval for reversal of its earlier decision to close the units of Fertilizers Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL) with a view to explore the various options for their revival.

Extension of AIBP in the country

†*413. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) was started during the last decade to bring rapid extension of irrigation system in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) is so, when the above programme was started and what were the objectives thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that following introduction of the said programme, the irrigated system in the country has expanded; and

(d) if so, consequent upon introduction of this programme the average annual creation of irrigated land in the country during the intervening years upto March, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (d) The Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) has been taken up by the Government of India in the year 1996 with a view to complete the ongoing last mile irrigation projects. AIBP has helped in creation of irrigation potential at a relatively higher rate. The average rate of irrigation potential creation during the period from I Plan to VIII Plan was 1.38 million hectare (Mha) per year. During the IX and X Plan, the period during which AIBP has been implemented, the average rate of creation of irrigation potential has been 1.65 Mha per year.

Agricultural land under Wealth Tax

*414. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural land, which is being used for agricultural purposes but falls under the Municipal limits/jurisdiction, is subject to Wealth Tax; and

(b) is so, whether Government is thinking of exempting it from Wealth Tax?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Urban land is an asset chargeable to wealth-tax under the Wealth-tax Act, 1957. "Urban land" under section 2(ea) of the Wealth-tax Act means land situated—

(i) in any area which is comprised within the jurisdiction of a municipality (by whatever name called) or a cantonment board and which has a population of not less than ten thousand according to the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published before the valuation date; or

(ii) in any area within such distance, not being more than eight kilometres from the local limits of any municipality or cantonment board referred to above, as the Central Government may, having regard to the extent of, and scope for, urbanisation of that area and other relevant considerations, specify in this behalf by notification in the Official Gazette,

but does not include—

(A) land on which construction of a building is not permissible under any law for the time being in force in the area in which such land is situtated; or

(B) the land occupied by any building which has been constructed with the approval of the appropriate authority; or

(C) any unused land held by the assessee for industrial purposes for a period of two years from the date of its acquisition by him; or

(D) any land held by the assessee as stock-in-trade for a period of ten years from the date of its acquisition by him.